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(54) Title: **AUDIO SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

(57) Abstract: An audio signal processing apparatus (1) comprises an audio input (3) for an entered audio signal, an audio output (5) for outputting an outgoing audio signal, and a processor (9) for performing a transformation (2) to improve the intelligibility of speech present in the entered audio signal. The transformation (2) transforms the entered audio signal into the outgoing audio signal, by modeling at least one aspect of the Lombard effect, based upon a noise level value (7). The Lombard effect is a specific way in which people change their speech, when speaking in noisy environments. The audio signal processing apparatus can be applied in a television receiver and a radio program receiver.

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